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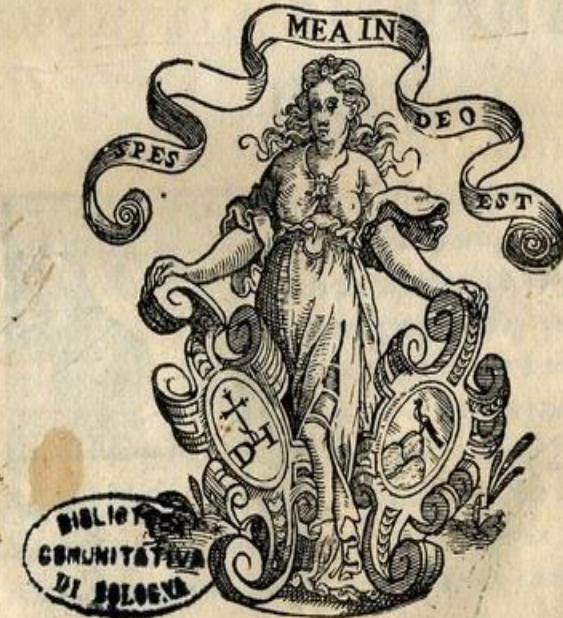
KIT-KAIROS ITALY THEATER is internationally recognized as the Italian Theater Company in NY. KIT's mission is to spread Italian Culture and to create an Italian Culture Network in order to maintain and spread the knowledge of Italy in the United States. KIT has produced more than 20 performances and events over the years, collaborating with Off-Off and Off-Broadway theaters and with US Institutions (The Kitchen, The Fringe Festival, the Abrons Art Center, Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimo' at NYU, Italian Academy at Columbia University, Film Society at Lincoln Center, Dahesh Museum of Art, NY Hall of Science, the Flea Theatre, Theater for the New City, Montclair State University, Suffolk County Community College, the Bernie West Theater at Baruch College, the cell theatre, etc). Never-before-translated works by major Italian playwrights have been presented to US audiences, who have grown in appreciation and in number since KIT's first production in 1997. KIT has also created the Double Theatre Experience, where One-Act plays are performed first in English and then in Italian in the same evening, by different casts. KIT also offers workshops on Commedia dell'Arte and other traditional Italian theater techniques as well as Italian&Theatre classes. In 2013, KIT inaugurated *In Scena!* Italian Theater Festival NY, the first Italian Theater festival to take place in all 5 New York City Boroughs. KIT is the Theater Company in residence at Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimo' at NYU.

**I L
MERITO DELLE
DONNE,**

Scritto
DA MODERATA FONTE
In due giornate.

*Que chiaramente si scuopre quanto siano elle degne,
e più perfette de gli huomini.*

CON PRIVILEGIO.



IN VENETIA, M. D. C.

Presso Domenico Imberti.

THE WORTH OF WOMEN by Moderata Fonte

ACCESS THEATER

MARCH 30 - APRIL 9, 2017

Gender equality and the responsibility of husbands and fathers: issues that loom large today had currency in Renaissance Venice as well, as evidenced by the publication in 1600 of *The Worth of Women (Il Merito delle Donne)* by Moderata Fonte.

This work creates a conversation among seven Venetian noblewomen that explores nearly every aspect of women's experience in both theoretical and practical terms.

Through this witty and ambitious work, Fonte seeks to elevate women's status to that of men, arguing that women have the same innate abilities as men and, when similarly educated, prove their equals. Through this dialogue, Fonte provides a picture of the private and public lives of Renaissance women, ruminating on their roles in the home, in society, and in the arts. A fine example of Renaissance vernacular literature, this book is also a testament to the enduring issues that women face, including the attempt to reconcile femininity with ambition.

With Carlotta Brentan, Laura Caparrotti, Aileen Lanni,
Marta Mondelli, Tali Custer, Irene Turri, Annie Watkins.

Translated by Virginia Cox
Adapted and Directed by Jay Stern
in collaboration with Laura Caparrotti

Original music by Erato Kremmyda
Lyrics by Meg-Kate Coleman
Set and Costumes Lauren Page Russell
Light Design and Board Operator Destiny Cordero
Assistant to the production: Mario Merone

90 minutes without intermission

The Worth of Women is presented by KIT in collaboration with Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimó and supported by LIT (the League of Independent Theater) and by A.R.T. Space Grants, and the Italian Cultural Institute in NY. Part of La Serenissima, a city-wide celebration of Venice by Carnegie Hall.

MODERATA FONTE

Moderata Fonte was the pseudonym of Modesta Pozzo (1555–92), a Venetian woman who was something of an anomaly. Neither cloistered in a convent nor as liberated from prevailing codes of decorum as a courtesan might be, Pozzo was a respectable, married mother who produced literature in genres that were commonly considered "masculine"—the chivalric romance and the literary dialogue.

Modesta Pozzo or **Moderata Fonte** (Venice, 1555-1592), although little known to modern criticism before around 1980, is now recognized as one of the most accessible and appealing of sixteenth-century Italian women writers. Her best-known work is the dialogue *Il merito delle donne* (*The Worth of Women*), which was published posthumously in 1600, and is one of the liveliest and most original contributions to early modern debate on sex roles, as well as one of the earliest to have been authored by a woman. Fonte's *oeuvre* also encompasses a number of other works deserving of critical attention, notably her chivalric romance, *Il Floridoro* (1581) and her two poetic narratives of Christ's passion and resurrection (1582 and 1592).

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